

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

July 10, 2007

**Aldermen Osborne,
O'Neil, Shea, Roy, Long**

4:00 PM

**Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Chairman Osborne called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Osborne, O'Neil, Shea, Roy, Long
Alderman Lopez

Messrs: T. Soucy, Deputy Chief Lussier, T. Clark, D. Anctil, S. Liakos,
B. Stanley

Chairman Osborne first addressed item 4.

4. Monthly update from the Public Health Director.

Mr. Tim Soucy, Public Health Director, stated good afternoon everyone. So you need two updates tonight. The first is to bring you up to speed on where we are with our West Nile virus surveillance. As you recall, we began our surveillance activities the first week of June. So far, we've received about fifteen calls to check on dead birds. We spoke with triage today on the phone. None of them have been suitable for testing, which is conducted in the State lab. We have however been conducting our mosquito surveillance. We have six traps placed around the City. We trap four nights a week and to date we've submitted just under 7,000 individual mosquitoes, representing 544 pools, what we call test tubes of mosquitoes; so a little under 7,000 mosquitoes. All of them we've received back so far are negative; there are still some pending up at the State lab. So far all is quiet on that front. Once again if folks have any concerns, they're more than welcome to call me on our Hotline at 624-6466, Ext. 325. So that's our update on bird and mosquito surveillance. The other issue that I want to talk about this evening which is pertinent to the summer months is our water quality program. The Health Department licenses swimming pools in the City, anything that's

considered open to the public. Condo pools, City pools, hotel pools are all licensed and inspected by the Health Department. The indoor pools we do year round; the outdoor pools obviously are seasonal. We begin that season in late May, early June. We do a pre-opening inspection so none of these pools are allowed to open until we get in there and do an inspection of them. We have about 31 of these outdoor pools. And then we try to get into them once a month during the summer months to make sure that the water quality is fine, the filtration is working properly, all the safety features are in place and in effect. That's one component: inspecting the outdoor swimming pools. City pools, we work very closely with Andy Vachon and Ed Wojnilowicz and Chuck DePrima and their crews. We actually go in and train their lifeguards ahead of time on the water quality aspects and how to do the testing. All of our folks have gone through what's called the CPO, a Certified Pool Operator's course, and they're all nationally certified to do this type of work. The second part of our water quality program is that we actually go around the City and take water samples every week, every Monday morning. We take them up and down the Merrimack River, the Piscataquog River, at Crystal Lake on both the public beach and the Melody Pines side, and on Long Pond where the Boy Scout camp is. We use what's called E. coli as an indicator organism. Our staff actually go out and they grab a water sample. Everyone has E. coli bacteria in their intestines. It's called an indicator organism because it's going to show up in a water sample sooner than a salmonella or shigella or another type of enteric pathogen. So we grab these water samples. Manchester Water Works is very gracious. They run the water analysis for us at no charge every week. These bodies of water are what is called Class B, by State statute, meaning you can't drink them but you can swim in them, as long as the E. coli levels stay below 88 colonies per one hundred mil water sample. So every week we go out and we grab these water samples. We take them on Monday. We get results Tuesday afternoon. If anything comes in above 88, we will post that area as no swimming. So far this year, we've done three postings: two along the Piscataquog and one along the Merrimack River. The question usually comes up: Why is it there? Why are we seeing elevated E. coli levels? And the answer is different for every body of water. Along the Piscataquog River, it's very likely that we may see agricultural run-off upstream. We may see some failed septic systems along the edge of the river. Along the Merrimack River we still have issues with combined sewers. So everytime we get rain, as we have in the past couple of days, we will get sewage that still gets into the river. When these rivers are elevated we will leave the postings up for the entire week. Then we'll re-sample the following Monday. Crystal Lake is an interesting one. There are occasions when we have to close the public beach at Crystal Lake because of the elevated E. coli levels. Sometimes that is due to bather load. Sometimes it is due to a dirty diaper that makes its way into the lake. Sometimes that is due to the geese that frequent that lake. There's a number of reasons why Crystal Lake tends to be closed. But regardless of the reason, when we find elevated E. coli level,

we'll take that as an indication that if someone were to swim in the water they may potentially be exposed to other pathogenic bacteria, which is why we take action when we do have issues. So a quick summary of what's going on with West Nile and E. Coli surveillance and little bit about the programs that we run during the summer, once again, to protect the bathing public, if you will, in the City.

Alderman Long asked Mr. Soucy where at the Merrimack River was the high level of E. coli?

Mr. Soucy responded actually today it was at Arms Park. We are concerned because of the number of kayakers, so we will always make sure that it's very well posted. This was probably the result of heavy rains.

Alderman Long asked how often will you check that, once you've determined a high level?

Mr. Soucy responded on the river because it's not a typical bathing area like Crystal Lake, we will only do it this Monday and we'll do it again next Monday, because of the resources that are involved in taking that water sample and having bathing areas posted. If we've already had a positive hit at Crystal Lake, we'll go back every day and re-sample, so we can get that re-opened as soon as possible.

Alderman Longs stated and one other, if I may, Mr. Chairman. You said you had calls for 15 dead birds, but they weren't suited for testing. What qualifies them being suited for testing?

Mr. Soucy responded that's a great question. Two factors: Number one, the State only wants crows and blue jays. So if we get a call for a finch or for a woodpecker, we're not going to pick it up to test because they're not the highest risk for transmitting, or for carrying the virus. The second factor is, how long has the bird been dead? If it's been dead for longer than 24 hours, then it's not a suitable specimen for testing. We can tell that by looking at the bird. If the eyes begin to sink in, that usually gives us an indication that the bird has been dead for too long. If there's obviously head trauma if it hit a window or a car, and it's not suitable for testing, then we won't test those as well.

Alderman Long stated very good. Thank you.

Alderman O'Neil stated Tim, one more time, and it's funny that this issue came up because I called today...

Mr. Soucy stated I heard.

Alderman O'Neil continued...about a bird. Just re-emphasize, what are the birds for people to be cautious with?

Mr. Soucy responded sure. Once again, the birds that we're most concerned with are crows and blue jays. Epidemiologically, we know that these are the birds that are most likely to carry either West Nile or Triple E. So while all birds may carry it, we're going to see the highest prevalence and the highest kill-off in these types of birds. So if we see a dead bird that's a crow or a blue jay, it's a more likely specimen to test positive. So those are the ones that we're looking for.

Alderman O'Neil stated and while we're on TV here and have the public's attention, do you want to just indicate what to do with a bird that is not a blue jay or a crow?

Mr. Soucy stated it can be disposed of in the trash. We typically will advise folks to use things like a pair of gloves, a shovel. Don't handle it, regardless of why the bird died. We don't want anyone coming in contact with it. So we'll advise them. And if someone is really concerned or really doesn't want to deal with it, we'll make a special trip out and take care of it.

Chairman Osborne stated thank you, Mr. Soucy. Hope to see you soon, next Committee meeting anyway.

Mr. Soucy stated see you next month.

3. Ratify and confirm poll conducted June 12, 2007 removing crosswalk policy from table and approving the "piano key" style crosswalk markings throughout the City.

Chairman Osborne stated I had some correspondence, or you fellows know, you've seen some correspondence from Mr. Gatsas under number three on your agenda. And he had some question on something here, and I have to call up, and I'd like a motion for discussion.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to discuss this item.

Alderman Shea asked what is the purpose of the crosswalks? Is it to fine people or is it to help them with their safety? Could you elaborate on that? The purpose is for people to cross the road safely; it isn't to generate revenue, is it?

Mr. Marc Lussier, Deputy Police Chief, stated no it's not. The purpose of enforcement is not to generate revenue. It's to educate the public and stop them from...

Alderman Shea stated well let's assume for the sake of discussion that a police officer is standing on the corner of, let's say, Elm and Hanover Street, and somebody walks across the crosswalk, violates the crosswalk statute, what happens?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded that person could be cited for jaywalking.

Alderman Shea asked what does 'cited' mean?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded given a summons.

Alderman Shea asked and the summons is what? I mean, I don't know. I never...

Deputy Chief Lussier responded a ticket for jaywalking. You'd have to appear in court and be held accountable for that. You're referring to the note from Alderman Gatsas?

Chairman Osborne stated first of all, Mr. Lussier, can you answer Mr. Gatsas's concerns here first? And then I guess we can bring up the questions. I think a lot of what he says here will answer a lot of these other questions.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated his question was how many tickets were issued, correct?

Chairman Osborne responded yes, tickets and you know, is it enforced, I guess? Some things of that sort. Or how much it's enforced right now?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I've got a few different notes here of things I want to talk about tonight. You inquired as to how many jaywalking tickets the Manchester Police Department had issued, and we ran a report. For the past year we had issued one citation for failure to yield to a pedestrian; that's a citation issued to a motorist. And we had issued ten citations for pedestrians in a roadway, which is generally kids hanging out in the street where they don't belong.

Chairman Osborne stated I'm just trying to get this because this is going to be ratified by this Committee. It will not be going to the full Board like Mr. Gatsas mentioned here, so this won't be brought up before the full Board this evening, so I'd like to go over it now so at least he could answer his questions on his

memorandum. So this is about it? What you've said is what you have for information in conjunction with this?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I will tell you that in my conversation with the Chief and the other Deputies, Deputy Chief Simmons and I and the Chief all headed the Traffic Division at some point in our career. During the course of our career, none of us can really recall getting complaints about crosswalks. It's not something that we get a lot of complaints about. It doesn't mean that crosswalks aren't important. It doesn't mean that painting the crosswalks isn't important and is not a helpful thing to do. It's just we don't get a lot of complaints about that.

Chairman Osborne stated well I guess it is going to be on the full Board.

Alderman O'Neil asked Deputy, would you agree that probably the biggest safety issue is when people step into a crosswalk...you know the State law, a motor vehicle has to yield, correct?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded correct.

Alderman O'Neil continued and that failure to yield can cause either accidents or almost accidents, correct?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated so that's probably...if we're going to focus and emphasize on anything it's that, not necessarily...I understand the jaywalking enters into that, but I think if there is a problem in the City it's fairly...if a ticket's to be written, when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk, a car fails to yield. I've seen it done with police officers right there and there's no tickets written. That, to me, is not acceptable.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated well I think the numbers somewhat speak for themselves. There could be better enforcement, but again, we don't get a lot of complaints about that.

Chairman Osborne asked Deputy Chief, do you feel like Elm Street here, with all the crosswalk signals that we have, I notice that nobody pays attention to those at all. They might as well not even be there. True?

Deputy Chief Lussier asked crosswalk signals...the pedestrians themselves or the vehicles?

Chairman Osborne replied pedestrians, yes.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I've seen people not wait. They push the button, they get impatient and they cross.

Chairman Osborne stated well, I'm just saying that...Mr. Clark, Tom, can I ask you a question? A State law, when you post a sign, I just had a couple of signs posted on Massabesic Street where the elderly are. We just put the piano keys in there, and I had a sign posted on both sides of those piano keys and it reads State law, stop for pedestrians. What really...State law...what does that mean as to the City ordinance?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded I think it's pretty similar. If they didn't stop and the police were there and saw it, they'd get a ticket.

Chairman Osborne asked so the State law, whatever they say, supercedes the City ordinance? It usually does, doesn't it? Whatever they have written...

Deputy Chief Lussier responded I'd have to take a look at it. Generally, the State law would apply. I mean, there are incidences where you have both, where you can charge somebody under an ordinance and/or State law.

Chairman Osborne stated because the residents in the elderly there were up in arms because they would have to cross the street there, and nobody stops for them. And it takes them a little while to get across with crutches or wheelchairs or whatever they might have. And they're very scared to cross on Massabesic Street.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated regardless of whether it's a State law or an ordinance, it's just an enforcement issue.

Chairman Osborne stated I understand that part.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated this is the first I've heard of that. If you're telling me that there are elderly people having a problem crossing, I'll get somebody up there and we'll take some enforcement.

Chairman Osborne stated yes, that's what it takes. I understand that. And I know you can't be everywhere. I'm not trying to start anything here. I'm just saying that they called me and I had these signs made up, or from the Traffic Department, and I think it's a good sign. It states State law, and I think it catches the attention of the drivers more so than just a crosswalk or a pedestrian sign, which says nothing on it and means nothing to a lot of people. But that stands out well, and I think it's going to work a little bit better. Anyway, any more questions?

Alderman O'Neil stated just a clarification for either Attorney Clark or Deputy Lussier: It doesn't have to be posted to be enforced?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated that's correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated I believe that's on the driver's test. Yield to a pedestrian at a crosswalk. It's on everyone's driver's test so we don't need to go around the City putting up more signs for this.

Chairman Osborne stated well Mr. O'Neil, I don't want to get into the sign situation, but in my Ward I've taken down more signs than I've put up. So, I'm not as... You make it sound like all I do is through signs, but the signs I do put up mean something.

Alderman O'Neil stated I wasn't referring to you, Alderman. All I was saying was we do not need signs to enforce State laws. We don't need signs; we need police officers to write tickets.

Chairman Osborne stated I didn't just fall off the turnip wagon; I understand that, Mr. O'Neil. But anyways...

Deputy Chief Lussier stated Alderman, can I ask you to repeat what the intersection was where those elderly people were having problems?

Chairman Osborne stated it's right where you cross and you go to that corner of, I guess you'd say Old Falls Road and Massabesic. It was right at that fork. And when they come across from the elderly there and they cross over to that store, it's murder for them. You know how they come down Massabesic and go up it, so I tried to do the best I could there, and I thought that was the best thing I could do was put a little education and something behind people to read because people don't think about what State laws are riding down the street. I mean, that's impossible.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated some people do.

Chairman Osborne stated we won't get into it. Okay, I appreciate it. Does anybody here have any more questions?

Alderman Long stated just a...well actually, from Bridge and Elm north is a major problem with pedestrians crossing there because there's no stop signs or lights. People tend to speed up, so if we can get a little effort out there, I would greatly appreciate it. And also, just a clarification...is a...at a crosswalk with a walk

sign...from what I understand, it's a violation to take a right turn on red when the walk sign is on. Is that correct?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded that's correct.

Alderman Long stated all right, because we also have a problem with Bridge Street...Bridge and Elm...at that walk. If there's a lot of people are taking a right heading south, taking a right onto Bridge, with the crosswalk on, so people are starting to walk, and then they're stopping for cars stopping and turning right on red. So, I don't know how many people are aware that that is the law. Once the light is blinking for walking, your stop on red is...

Deputy Chief Lussier stated we'll get some people out there. We'll make them aware of it.

Alderman Long stated I appreciate it. Thank you, Deputy.

Chairman Osborne stated I know you may as well sit there for a couple of minutes. I'm sure you'll be back.

Alderman Roy stated Mr. Chairman, not for Deputy Lussier but regarding the piano keys, either Tim or Kevin, more of an editorial...I know they put down the blanks and I know they've been trying to get all the crosswalks done, but if we could just maybe look at the crispness of the lines. I saw one. I was in...I was on, I believe, Huse Road today. It was quite shaky, instead of being crisp piano keys. So if we could just see what the process is and try to do our best on making them as crisp as possible, it would be appreciated.

Ms. Carol Johnson, Deputy City Clerk, stated we would need a motion and a vote to ratify and confirm the poll.

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to ratify and confirm the poll.

5. Communication from Dennis Anctil, on behalf of the State NHDOT, seeking approval of a detour plan during the replacement of the Island Pond Road bridges over I-93, outlined herein.

Alderman Roy stated is this pretty much how you outlined it, and this is necessary to preserve that bridge, or rebuild?

Mr. Dennis Anctil, State NHDOT, responded yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked Dennis, will there be specific signage, not the generic Detour Ahead? Will there be some signage at Cohas and Mammoth or Island Pond and Mammoth that kind of merge in at the bridge, and then the other side that would say, Seek Alternate Route, of something like that?

Mr. Steve Liakos, State NHDOT Bureau of Bridge Design, stated we will have our Traffic Bureau lay out specific signs for the project, as we do with all our projects.

Alderman O'Neil stated this actually came up at a neighborhood meeting I was at last week. I believe all the City departments have been notified. Fire...the Fire Station. I think Police Deputy Lussier was aware of it. Just make sure the City departments know about it; that will be great.

Alderman Long asked was there any traffic studies when you go to detour just to sort of warn the neighborhood as to what to expect with respect to traffic? Do we normally do that for a detour or not?

Mr. Liakos responded we had a public informational meeting on June 13th. We had it at Weston School. It was attended by Paul Anctil and also Aldermen Pinard and Lopez. We made it aware. We had it open to the public.

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Long, it was voted to approve this item.

Mr. Anctil stated I just had a question: I believe there was a second item we had sent over about an agreement, a proposed agreement between the City and the State.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to approve this agreement.

6. Communication from Deputy Chief Lussier submitting information relating to Tasers and responding to questions raised regarding the department's priorities.

Alderman Roy stated thank you, Deputy Lussier, for not only this fine letter but the information that you've sent me or the phone calls that you've responded to. It's been fantastic, the response we've gotten from the Police Department on moving forward to public safety. That being said, I'm going to ask this Committee...In reading the letter from Deputy Lussier regarding Tasers and priorities, the CIP request for, I believe it was \$175,000 for the first cycle of radio

replacements. Deputy Lussier, confirm? I've had a lot on my plate today so...That was not funded?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I was told it was not. I'm not that familiar with how the CIP process works, but I was told we put in a request and it wasn't funded.

Alderman Roy stated what I would ask this board to do in the motion that I'm going to make is that we refer that \$175,000 request to the full Board and ask City staff to possibly find financing or funding for the radio replacements. The radio is the key piece of communication from an officer on the street back to Central Station and out to other officers that are there to assist. We're coming up on ten years and these have a life expectancy of five to seven years. So I would ask, or make the motion, Mr. Chairman, that we refer to the full Board a request to find a minimum of \$175,000 to start the first cycle of radio replacement for the Police Department.

Chairman Osborne asked okay, are we on to Tasers here or radio replacements?

Alderman Long stated actually, I'll second that motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated Marc, I've got to be honest. I have not seen a list recently from the Department with priority requests, so if you could see that we get that. I know that it's probably not your division that would generate that, but I've got to be honest, I don't know what is at the top of the priority list.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated one of the reasons radios were mentioned in this document about Tasers was Alderman Roy had asked for some input about Tasers and he had also asked for a list of priorities. Toward the end of this letter, that's why I identified the radios as a top priority.

Alderman O'Neil asked would it be possible to get a copy of what the priority list is at some point? I mean, I've read this letter a couple of times. All I see is radios, a discussion about Tasers, Weed and Seed, which we did fund, and there was some talk about evidence area and a building study, but until I saw this letter, this was the first time that I've seen these things in recent years. There must be a list put together from one to whatever.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I'm not familiar with that. This was something that...some of the priorities that we have identified.

Chairman Osborne stated so, Mr. Roy asked about the Tasers here. So where are we going with this? Is this just informational? Mr. Roy you want this information?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I'd say it's informational because we don't have the money for it.

Chairman Osborne stated oh, I understand that part. I was going to go through it a little bit if you did, or thought you did.

Alderman Roy stated I actually have a cover-up for after we're done with the radio motion. What I asked the Chief to do...I had...In starting to fight for things for whatever department, I hear information from a multitude of forces. When it comes to actually funding these things, the requests go into the CIP process. Most of them get reviewed by the Mayor. One of the major projects in my Ward through Highway Department wasn't seen this year by anyone except for the Mayor's office as far as the light at Hamel and Campbell, speaking of things we don't hear about anymore, Alderman O'Neil. So those decisions are made long before the budget gets to the Board of Aldermen by the Mayor's office. So when I was pushing to have Tasers instituted and find the dollars for those, I was informed that there was a much more basic need of radios that was not funded. And that's what led to this list of priorities and the Deputy going ahead and putting together a list for me. Tasers are still a very high priority for me. I think they'll be excellent for the City. As I think the letter states, the Administration thinks they're very important for their officers, but they're not the highest priority. If we can find funds, we should start with the basics, which are, you know, the basic equipment that we have currently proved, and that starts with the \$175,000 in radios. It doesn't mean I'm going to stop my fight for Tasers in the next few years, but it starts with funding the basics.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated we haven't given up the fight either. We are still actively seeking any grant funding that might be available for that. Right now I don't know of any that will help us. You might find something that requires matching funds or something like that, but I don't think the Homeland Security money is there that used to be there.

Alderman Shea stated Marc, the new police officers that are coming on board, they're being equipped with radios, is that correct?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded yes, they are.

Alderman Shea asked are they new radios or are they old radios?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded I'm guessing they're old radios. I heard a Communications Manager just the other day mention that we just received ten new radios. The new radios are a different style. I'm not sure if she's giving those to

the new people or if she's giving them older radios and...I don't know how they're being dispersed. But we are ordering new radios. They no longer make our radios so as we get new radios, we're buying some of the newer versions.

Alderman Shea asked now when you order new radios, what resources are you using?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded I think those are just coming out of our budget, if we're ordering ten. I can't speak to where the money is coming from.

Alderman Shea stated so you do have money in your budget for radios. Is that correct?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated that would be better answered by Deputy Simmons. I honestly can't tell you where that money's coming from. Ten radios is probably different than a couple hundred radios.

Alderman Shea stated I'm just saying that when you need radios there is an appropriation that you do use in order to supplement the radios that you need to replace. In other words, if one breaks down you must have some kind of budgetary concerns raised each year so that you would have money for equipment or something like that.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I can't speak to the line item. You're correct that if we need to buy a few radios, we can find the money to go out and do that. We don't have the funding available to replace all the old radios.

Alderman Shea stated what I'm suggesting possibly is before we decide to look for \$175,000, again that's my own thoughts, we should get a report back in terms of your department and what your needs might be, and then from there we could kind of agree on what we might be able to do. In other words, is it a critical problem at this stage now to have \$175,000 in order to get new radios or is it something that could wait another couple of weeks or a month or so?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded in my opinion it's critical. This isn't the kind of thing you can wait till the last minute. The radios are starting to die; they're starting to break down on a much more frequent basis. These radios are the lifeline. These are what the officers depend on. It's not the kind of things we can wait till the very last minute, have them die, become desperate, and then...

Alderman Shea stated you see, what I can't understand is if they're so critical to your Department, why wouldn't money be inserted into the budget in order for these types of problems to be addressed when your budget is made out? Why

would you have to come back for, in a sense, a special appropriation? I just don't feel as if...

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I understand what you're saying. I'd have to plead somewhat ignorant of the budget process.

Alderman O'Neil stated Marc, it might be helpful...I would have to guess there's been some replacement, an ongoing replacement program, whether it's five or ten every year. And maybe you could have Deputy Simmons put together that report for us. I believe what's being requested here is: Does every radio in the Department, correct, get replaced?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated we have replaced radios in piecemeal. I have a newer radio that I might have had for six months to a year.

Alderman O'Neil stated there has to be X number of those that exist in the Department today, correct?

Deputy Chief Lussier asked X number of the newer radios? I think when we bought them we bought six.

Alderman O'Neil stated but maybe, as Alderman Shea said, some information on what has been bought over the years, how many, and are those up to the standards of today. That would be helpful. And I do have to agree with my colleagues; I guess I'm disappointed in...I know you happen to be the one in the seat, the hot seat tonight, but the fact that this is the first time with your letter that I'm aware that there's an issue with radios in the Police Department. I have never seen any communication in recent years about that, so it's one of those, I'm sure if we were aware of it, we would have tried to have found a way to fund it. And I do think...wasn't there some State money several years ago to make radios, Fire and Police, so they can talk to one another. Police can talk to other...

Deputy Chief Lussier stated that's somewhat of a different issue, if I can interrupt.

Alderman O'Neil asked but weren't there supposed to be radio purchases as part of that?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded there have been.

Alderman O'Neil asked so where does that number enter into...

Deputy Chief Lussier responded our radio system, the City's radio system, is called an 800 megahertz trunking system. Manchester and Nashua are the only ones in the State that have an 800 megahertz system. Everybody else has VHF radios. State Police have VHF radios. Under Homeland Security and under interoperability, we were able to purchase several VHF radios to enable us to speak with the surrounding communities. If we had to go to Salem, we could speak with them. We have purchased, I believe, 50 portable VHF radios and several dozen mobile radios are going to be put into each cruiser. What those radios will do is will allow an officer to speak on his VHF radio or, if he pushes a button, he'll be speaking on the 800 megahertz. So that's the interoperability. That's not helping us on a day to day basis with our officers. All those radios, all those VHF radios, you're not comparing apples to apples. That's a whole different subject.

Alderman O'Neil asked but are they are to replace or to supplement the existing radio system?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded neither. They work side by side. It's a whole different operating system. It's like if you had an...

Alderman O'Neil asked so where are those 50 radios? Who has them? Where are they within the Department?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded currently they're being programmed by Fire Communications so that we have all the different channels for the surrounding communities. They will be, the portables themselves, several of them will be placed into each cruiser with a charger. There will be a mobile radio installed into each cruiser. But those radios do not help us in our day to day operation, talking amongst ourselves. Those are so that we can deal with other agencies. When the President comes to town and we want to do a motorcade and talk with State Police and Sheriffs, they're on a different frequency. So that will enable us to speak with them directly.

Alderman O'Neil stated so these unlike...am I correct that radios today stay with the officer, no matter where their assignment is? The portables stay with the officer no matter where their assignment is?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated these fifty radios are fixed or are they part of a police cruiser?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated those are fifty portable radios. A good portion of those will be placed into the police cruiser, augment what's already there. There will also be a second mobile radio installed in the cruiser, so we have our current 800 megahertz radio in that cruiser. In the trunk we're going to also have this new radio, a VHF radio. When dispatch tells us Goffstown has a pursuit, they're coming into Manchester, we will be able to switch to that VHF radio, listen to Goffstown, and go car to car with the Goffstown police.

Alderman O'Neil stated so we have two systems, then, in these cars.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated that's correct. But that's the best...and again, that has to do with the interoperability, but the State actually put \$250,000 aside for us.

Alderman O'Neil asked if we did a replacement, will all radios be VHF?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded no, our system is 800. We're not looking to do away with our system. Eight hundred megahertz is appropriate in this environment with building penetration, with the buildings and the lay of the land. It's a good system; it's a good system for the City and the City isn't ready to go away from it. That would be a huge undertaking, and from what I'm being told, that's not recommended.

Alderman O'Neil stated a couple of things...I think a report on what radios have been replaced over the past five years, or something would be helpful. And if we could get a copy of...There has to be a priority list that exists, whether it's one through ten, one through twenty. I don't want to speak for my colleagues but I'm not sure any of the Aldermen have ever seen a priority list from the Police Department.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I think because for years officers have been our top priority, and that's what we've been getting.

Alderman O'Neil stated but there would always be some capital priority list that would usually include vehicles but would also include other equipment. So I think it would be good if we could see that because, to be honest, again, I don't want to repeat, but if we would have known this radio issue existed, I'm guessing we would have tried to address it for this fiscal year.

Alderman Roy stated thank you, Mr. Chairman. Alderman O'Neil, a few meetings both of us attended and I have to say thank you. I mean, you were very instrumental in adding the \$291,000 to the budget for the drug and guns program, as well as the \$341,000 for the officers, and that \$600,000 ate up a lot of extra money that went to the Police Department. But a lot of things that were discussed

within the Police Department and given to the Mayor's office never made it to us. And so we took care of a number of their top priorities through joint effort of this Board and the budget and the Police Department, but I think it's now time that when we talk about future things that we do look at those priorities and do look at what they're asking for and what we need to do to keep officers safe. So I would ask, it's a very broad motion, that we ask the full Board to endorse it and ask staff to find the dollars, whether it's through grants or monies out of the budget, or some fund that can't be used for a couple of years, or some way that we add \$175,000 to the Police coffers for current radio upgrades or current radio purchases. And that's if it takes a year, it takes a year; if it takes two months, it takes two months. But at least we're starting the process with what the Deputy Chief has said is the number one priority.

Chairman Osborne stated we had a motion on that by Mr. Roy and seconded by Mr. Long, I believe, right?

Alderman O'Neil stated Mr. Chairman, before we take the vote, can I ask one question on Tasers?

Chairman Osborne stated we've already had a first and second, but anyway, I haven't taken a vote...

Alderman O'Neil asked just a question on Tasers.

Chairman Osborne stated well that's what I was going to do. Can I ask one question?

Alderman O'Neil stated go ahead. You are the Chair; you can do whatever you want.

Chairman Osborne stated I just had a question, seeing we were talking about Tasers. Just a quickie here. We're talking \$328,475, okay? And we have, what, three shifts, right?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated that's every officer.

Chairman Osborne stated I understand that. But we do have three shifts on the Police Department. So if we started a pilot program, when the time comes, I'm not saying now, but I'm just saying if we cut this into the amount of a shift so they could pass onto the other shifts, why do we have to have everybody have a Taser at one time?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded you have officers working details; you have officers working nightclubs, baseball games...

Chairman Osborne stated well whatever it might be. We could cut the amount of these Tasers to start off with to get it going rather than to get a full complement like this. I think, if not a third, we could cut it in half, if anything. And that would be enough for a private duty or whatever it might be. They could pick them up and return, that's it.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I guess that's a step in the right direction. It's better than nothing. You do have some problems sometimes with issuing sign-out, the whole keeping track of them. Maintenance. People tend to take...One thing we found years ago was the officers used to sign out their portable radios, and when we started issuing them their own portable radio, the maintenance and the upkeep was much better because they were responsible for it.

Chairman Osborne stated as far as Tasers, anyway. That's more of a weapon type of thing, I guess. Okay, I don't want to discuss it any longer.

Alderman O'Neil stated that's exactly where I was going, Alderman. It must have been my influence when I lived in Ward Five.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated there would be quite a cost there associated with the training.

Alderman O'Neil stated Marc, wouldn't it be...You have other equipment that you use for specialty situations – weapons, different weapons of sort. Not every officer has those weapons. Couldn't you do a similar...again starting, crawling before you walk, before you, run, with Tasers, that there might be so many available on a shift, officers with them in a shift. You do it with other specialty equipment.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated we do. The beanbag shotgun is an example. The problem is when I'm at a situation and I've got a man with a knife, or I've got somebody that's combative, I don't have the luxury of waiting for you to show up with your Taser. I have to respond...

Alderman O'Neil stated today we don't have a Taser in the City, so if we had six of them or ten of them on a shift, it's better than nothing, is my point. I can remember the days where every other cruiser had a shotgun, not every cruiser. Every other cruiser had a shotgun in the trunk. At least it would be a start of phasing into a program. The position of the Department is, it's not all or nothin it's just...

Deputy Chief Lussier stated it's not the ideal situation, but it's better than what we have.

Alderman O'Neil stated that might encourage...something you look at.

Alderman Long stated with regard to the radio problems, I mean, this is the first that I'm hearing of this. Can you give me an example of what's out in the field in a week's time? What am I hearing, our radios are not working?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated the portable radios tend to break down quite a bit. The officers have to turn them in and get a spare. We send them down to radio repair. I couldn't tell you if the average...I can't tell you if we have ten, twenty, thirty down there on an average waiting to come back. But the radios are going. Officers will call in. We have a hard time making out what they're saying. Microphones are starting to break, and that kind of thing.

Alderman Long asked how often is this happening?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I guess I'm not really in a position to give you numbers at this time. I've spoken with Rachel Page; she's our Communications Manager. She tells me that it's happening at a greater frequency, but I couldn't give you a percentage.

Chairman Osborne stated I'd like to go on here with number seven.

Alderman Roy stated I have one more motion, Mr. Chairman, after we vote on the first motion.

Chairman Osborne stated okay, the first motion, everybody's approved here. Everybody's all set with it, for the radios? Mr. Roy, what do you hav

Alderman Roy stated my next motion does go to the Taser issue, and much like our problem now is outfitting the entire department and coming up with the \$328,000, because it is a \$328,000 price tag to outfit everyone. I would like to ask one question of the Deputy Chief: New officers coming on...in the Aldermanic budget we put in \$41,000 for new officer equipment, which was, in answer to Alderman Shea's questions, there's not a line item in the budget for radios or communications in the Police budget. It's outside of their control. They have minor apparatus and tools, but they do not have a radio line item.

Alderman O'Neil stated they must pay for it somehow.

Alderman Roy stated I'm just telling you there's not a line item in their budget. There is equipment but it's not anywhere near the \$60,000 number.

Chairman Osborne asked Mr. Roy, what do you want to do?

Alderman Roy stated so my question for the Deputy Chief is, with the now two instructors in Tasers, would it be possible to, as we put on new officers, either the ones coming on now or the ones to come on in the future be trained and given a Taser at that point so that if this takes five years and we have ten officers a year, those fifty officers now have it as a regular issued item like their gun and their badge.

Chairman Osborne asked can we put this Taser situation on the back burners here and table it for now and bring it back next meeting? We have a long agenda this evening, and we're just getting nowhere. I think we could talk all night about Tasers here. I think... and then do it right. Do you think this would be a good idea, Mr. Roy?

Alderman Roy stated with all due respect to our parking problems in the City, I'd rather keep our employees safe as they go out on the streets at night. So I will do what the Chairman asks, but I think a simple yes or no from the Deputy and a motion...

Deputy Chief Lussier stated it would be possible but I wouldn't be in favor of it.

Chairman Osborne stated there you go.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated it's...you're buying Tasers for brand new officers; the seasoned veterans who are out there don't have them. It's going to take them months before they even hit the streets. It is better than nothing, but I'd rather wait and try to do it right.

Alderman Roy stated okay. I'm just trying to get them on the street for you. And phasing in fifty over the next few years, versus buying 200 is something that I'm finding insurmountable. So, with that said...

Chairman Osborne asked Carols, can we table number six here?

Alderman Long asked could we get a true cost of also...was training in the breakdown of costs?

Deputy Chief Lussier asked, of the Tasers? On the third page of that note, I believe there's a breakdown for you: Training Overtime of \$4,800.

Alderman Long stated I'll move to table, Mr. Chairman.

Alderman O'Neil stated the Deputy will get back to us with that information requested, correct?

Chairman Osborne responded yes. We're going to table it and we can bring it back.

Deputy Chief Lussier asked are you talking about the priorities, sir?

Alderman O'Neil responded the priorities and a little history of the radios.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated we'll get back to you on that.

Alderman O'Neil stated Lieutenant Hopkins can't wait till he gets his Taser.

Alderman Shea seconded Alderman Long's motion to table. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

7. Communication from Deputy Chief Lussier regarding fire hydrant parking fines.

Chairman Osborne stated we have received your information. I have read it thoroughly. And basically, I still have my concerns. Maybe the Committee first will bring up a few questions and I can go over it with you.

Alderman O'Neil stated Marc, I've read your letter and I want to make sure I understand. Can you explain for me, I park in front of a fire hydrant. A Police Officer or a Parking Control Officer puts a ticket. That ticket will be for how many dollars?

Chairman Osborne stated fifty right now.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated \$50.

Alderman O'Neil stated fifty. Now, you noted in your letter that at least one Officer, maybe several, has pointed out to you, if they come across a fire hydrant in a No Parking Here To Corner zone, that they would tend to put that no parking zone violation.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated well they may.

Alderman O'Neil asked what is the penalty on that?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded \$50.

Alderman O'Neil stated currently as it is, it's...and I think your point was, it might skew the number of fire hydrant violation tickets that are written either by Police Officers or by Parking Control Officers.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated that's correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated okay. I just wanted to make sure I was clear on that. And my second question would be: you just, in March, if I read your letter correct, received a new batch, or whatever the terminology would be, of parking tickets, when would be the timeframe that those would be eventually...and you may have put it in your letter and I just missed it.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I think about a year or so, that we'd go through those.

Alderman O'Neil stated so if we were going to make a change that would be the appropriate time?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated that's what I'm recommending.

Alderman O'Neil asked what happens now if we have tickets printed and we do change something, can you legally write on the ticket what the change is? How does that work?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I believe that would be a question for the City Solicitor. I believe we could do that, but it's problematic. If I start writing things on a ticket that aren't printed there, I think people are going to have some questions. They're going to think, did the Officer do this? Did some wise guy walking down the street do this.

Alderman O'Neil asked Mr. Chairman, could I ask Attorney Clark, just for a comment on that? We know he's a former...

Chairman Osborne stated sure. I want to go there too, so...

Mr. Tom Clark, City Solicitor, stated basically the Deputy Chief is correct. If you start changing the tickets, first of all the court is going to get very suspicious about enforcing it. They're going to wonder what's going on. And it depends on what you change. There are ways you can do it like we do with ballots and stuff. You

could buy stickers and put them on, but it's going to make an additional cost to place stickers on top of all your tickets. It's not a good practice. If you're going to make a major change, you're better off getting rid of the tickets and buying new ones.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated the sticker issue was addressed in my letter, but I don't think that's a realistic thing to do. You have 15,000 tickets, a two-part ticket. We're up to about 27,000 stickers, is what I had cited.

Alderman O'Neil asked Marc, am I correct that the cost for the new tickets you ordered was approximately \$3,000?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded yes, sir.

Chairman Osborne stated okay, I want to stay right there. You say you only wrote 62 tickets in a year. Is that right? Combined?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded yes.

Chairman Osborne stated I still say we need to put this to \$100. Fire hydrants. Number one, when you have a fire hydrant that's that close to a corner, and you have a sign that says No Parking Here To Corner, you have a fire hydrant. You don't need the sign, so let's pull all those out, number one. Number two, if you only wrote 63 tickets and you bought even 1000 stickers at \$50, and you pass them out, for what little tickets you say you're writing, we could always put a sticker over that \$50 and make it \$100. As long as there's an Ordinance in the books, that's the main thing. If people are going to argue the point, well, so be it. But the main thing is they'll know next time it's going to be one hundred bucks and not fifty. And when you get to a corner or an intersection like that and there's No Parking Here To Corner, and there's a fire hydrant and the officer stands there, well let's see, which shall I give him? A fire hydrant ticket or should I give him a No Parking Here To Corner ticket? The other way, if it's a fire hydrant, it's automatic. They're going to give them a fire hydrant, and it's \$100. So you've got to have a separation between the two fines here, between fire hydrants and No Parking Here to Corner. It's not right to have the same thing. So I feel that we should up this and put a new Ordinance through stating that it's going to be \$100 parking in front of fire hydrants and if we have to go out there and purchase a few stickers for peanuts, it's well worth it, because we've got to keep them...we're talking about 63 life threatening safety issues out there. That's what we're talking about. Not just 63 tickets. They're parking in front of fire hydrants, and to order a tow truck to come out there and to tow a vehicle, that takes time. By that time the building is burnt down.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I spoke with Chief Kane about this and parking in front of a fire hydrant is a serious issue, but at the same time, I'm not sure. If the Fire Department needs that car moved, that car is going to get moved. That car is not going to get in their way. Trust me.

Chairman Osborne stated I still don't think that's the proper way of doing it but I think this won't hurt. For what little tickets we write, it's well worth to let the people know out there that it's \$100 if you park in front of a fire hydrant. Instead of sixty-three tickets, maybe we'll only write ten. Who knows?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated well I won't argue with you that upping the fine is not a bad idea. I just don't think it has to be done today when we just bought thousands of tickets.

Chairman Osborne stated sir, you're going to keep those tickets. All I'm talking about is buying about fifty bucks worth of stickers to put on there for \$100, little stickers over it. For the 63 tickets you're going to write, you're going to be using 63 stickers. Do you know where I'm coming from? You're not going to change those tickets at all. They're going to stay the same way they are. Would that work, Mr. Clark?

Mr. Clark responded I'd have to take a look at the tickets. I don't know how the sticker would affect it.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated it's a two-part ticket: the one that the person gets and the one that gets mailed in.

Chairman Osborne stated I thought about those tickets myself; if they would have been individual we could have had those stamped out and put \$100 next to it, but where they're in a book like that, it's too expensive. I've already looked into that, too. So, the best way is to have these little stickers put on there and at least the ordinance is there, so they can't fight it. Does anybody else have any questions?

Alderman O'Neil stated just curious, and this is just off the top of my head. Didn't we change the handicap violation a short time ago? I don't know if Brandy was here yet. She's shaking her head no. I thought we changed that. Did that fall in line with the new tickets?

Chairman Osborne responded no, I think that was already in force.

Alderman O'Neil stated we changed the amount.

Chairman Osborne stated no.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated it used to be \$100 at one point. It probably went up to...

Alderman O'Neil stated the amount could change. I'm just wondering, what did we do with the tickets then?

Ms. Johnson, Deputy City Clerk, stated they were almost out.

Alderman O'Neil stated the timing worked that way?

Ms. Johnson stated that's my recollection.

Deputy Chief Lussier my concern is that...

Ms. Johnson stated they were holding the tickets at the time because there were a couple of different changes that they were making.

Alderman Roy asked is \$250 the fine for parking in a handicap space?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded yes, the handicap zone is \$250; a handicap accessible aisle is \$100.

Alderman O'Neil stated so Carol, that's what happened. It timed...We made the change prior to their ordering new tickets?

Ms. Johnson stated they were down to the nitty-gritty and holding them at the end, as I recall.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated the timing was appropriate.

Chairman Osborne stated that's my recommendation here. I don't know how the Committee feels about it, but I think we should go to \$100 with this fire hydrant and get it over with, and not just wait.

Alderman Shea stated I respectfully disagree. I think that we should continue to follow whatever the particular tickets indicate now and then when the time comes...timing is everything in life...and change it then and have tickets issued then that would be consistent so that we don't run into some smart lawyer indicating that when something is written on a ticket or something else, or tickets aren't really coordinated as they should be. So that's my suggestion. Leave it like it is and then...I don't think we're going to impact anything that dramatically for the next year or whenever time.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I agree with you, and I think that a year from now we might want to make further changes to these books and when we go to publish we can make them all at once.

Alderman Shea stated that's the way I feel.

Alderman Roy stated Deputy, I may have missed this, but obviously the Clerk was aware when you were down on your supply last time. Do you notify anyone here at City Hall when you come down to a low supply?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded we work with Ordinance Violations. I don't know if we actually notify anybody down at City Hall that we're ordering more tickets.

Alderman Roy stated Deputy Chief, could you prior to, or roughly three months prior to, you running out of tickets again, or prior to ordering the reprints that someone at the Clerk's office is notified and notifies this Committee and the full Board, or whatever Committee is sitting here at that time?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated we can do that.

Alderman O'Neil stated Mr. Chairman, if I may, I do agree. I like the \$100. More bite is going to make it better, but I do think from a logistics standpoint and the confusion it could cause, that's it's probably more appropriate to implement it on the next order of tickets. I would leaving here, though, encourage the Police Department and our Parking Division and their Parking Control Officers to...don't be afraid to put a ticket on a car parked in front of a fire hydrant. Do it several times, if you'd like!

8. Report on signage and fines relating to dog offenses from Police and Solicitor, if available.

Chairman Osborne stated Mr. Lussier had some correspondence on that. Do you want to elaborate a little bit here?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated at the last Public Safety, Traffic & Health Committee meeting on June 5th, you had indicated you wanted an Animal Control Officer and myself to explore the feasibility of combining a couple signs, the leash law and the fouling signage, into one sign. I think if you have my packet there, you'll see Dennis Walsh has taken some photos and made some comments, reference to the signage and how we could bring those two signs together. However, I would say

at this point that the real problem is that we have dogs going out onto athletic fields and doing their business there and they shouldn't be doing that. That's where children play and I would propose, actually, an Ordinance that prohibits animals, dogs, from being on any athletic fields period. It would make it a lot easier to enforce too, because when you're out there walking your dog, I almost have to watch you and see what happens, or see if you have that bag, or if your dog is on a leash, but what it all boils down to is the dogs don't belong there.

Alderman Shea stated I totally agree. I think that parks are becoming dumping grounds for dogs, and people get out of cars and they put on make-up and I've had the Animal Officer at Prouts Park. I've had the Animal Officer at Hall Street Park. I'm sure that St. Anthony's ballpark is the same. When I drive by it's just a place that people just let them run wild. And they're not small dogs either. You know, I mean, these are dogs that are quite large and need a lot of absolute space and so forth. And I don't disagree and whatever your suggestion is about having an Ordinance forbidding dogs to go in parks, I will vote for. I mean, I think it's a wonderful idea.

Chairman Osborne asked do you agree, Mr. Lussier, with the sign on the last page on the backside? Is that what you would like to see implemented? I don't have it in front of me but I remember seeing it on the back exactly. I remember seeing it on the back of the pamphlet right there.

Deputy Chief Lussier responded well that was not what I would like to see implemented. That's what you spoke about, combining the signs, and that would be combining the two signs into one.

Chairman Osborne asked and what would you recommend?

Deputy Chief Lussier responded I recommend they stay off the field. Those signs might address...They might be good for the parks, you know, Livingston Park where you have the trail around the Park and that kind of situation. That sign would serve a purpose, but as far as all the baseball fields, the soccer fields, and everything else, I think you have a sign that says No Dog On the Field.

Chairman Osborne stated no dogs allowed period, huh?

Alderman O'Neil stated can I suggest to keep this moving that maybe we ask the Police Department to work with the Solicitor's office to come up with some new language for Ordinances that would be appropriate.

Chairman Osborne stated I could probably help them with that. We'll keep the dogs smiling.

Alderman O'Neil stated well, if you're available and want to coordinate it, but I'm sure Attorney Clark would be willing to help out so that... We could probably stay on this subject for a while tonight but...

Chairman Osborne stated well, we stayed on other subjects for a long time, so let's just finish it up. That's what I was going to do. I was going to recommend maybe Jim Hoben or someone, to come up with some words, maybe even the City Solicitor, that's legal. No dogs allowed, RSA... whatever we come up with, along with some parks that read just like the back of that pamphlet you have there, right? There's nothing wrong with that with some parks, like you said, Livingston and so on, because they walk their dog through that trail around the pond there. Is that what you're saying?

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I guess we would need directions. I'm sure Jim will tell you. There's a cost associated with replacing all these signs, and if these signs are serving a purpose and working right now, do you want them combined just for the sake of having them combined?

Chairman Osborne stated I think Parks & Rec would be stepping in on this as well, to let us know which would be the best put where. That's all.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated if I'm understanding what Alderman O'Neil was referring to, he was actually referring to the drafting of an ordinance that would prohibit dogs because there is nothing at this point that would do that. I think that's where you would have to start if you don't want the dogs on there at all.

Chairman Osborne stated true, I agree with you there; we need some sort of an Ordinance

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated. It's a separate issue from the signage, but without an Ordinance you can't do it.

Alderman O'Neil made a motion, which was duly seconded by Alderman Shea, to have an Ordinance drafted to prohibit dogs at parks with athletic fields.

Alderman Roy asked friendly amendment, Alderman O'Neil? Just that it be added to 90.12 Running-at-large prohibited. Possibly Section D, and ...

Alderman O'Neil stated I'm sure the City Solicitor already point

Mr. Clark stated Alderman, we'll work with the Police Department. We'll review all of the dog Ordinances and come up with appropriate revisions for you.

There being no opposition, the motion carried.

9. Communication from Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, submitting documents relative to the implementation of the Millyard Parking Plan as follows:

- a) Traffic Ordinance amendment;
- b) Proposed rescission and adoption of Traffic Rules and Regulations for Millyard area;
- c) Millyard Parking Location Plan;
- d) CIP amending resolution and budget authorization;
- e) Millyard Parking Plan;
- f) Financial Analysis; and
- g) Millyard Parking Permits Cancellation Policy

(Note: documents forwarded under separate cover.)

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, stated thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the interest of time, if you agree, I don't think it's necessary to go through the entire PowerPoint presentation that we went through last month, as it is substantially the same. What I would like to draw your attention to, however, is one change that we made to what was proposed last time. After a discussion with the Fisher Cats and some other community leaders, we've decided that at this time, we're going to pull out the Special Event parking portion of the Millyard Parking Plan because we believe that a Special Event parking plan for several venues needs to be developed independently, and we just didn't have the time to put it together at this point. So we have pulled that out of our proposal. What I do have for you at this meeting that I didn't have before is the numbers and what we're proposing in terms of the financing. What we're looking at for Fiscal Year 2008, given the assumption that the Millyard Parking Plan is passed this evening, is a cost of \$271,000 for the meters. We're going to buy 35. Installation and signage, communications and credit card fees are ongoing fees that are operational costs. For the Merner lot, if you recall we were proposing to put a cashier booth and an attendant on that parking lot. It's about \$17,350 for the booth and the installation, about \$37,000 for the attendant payroll, and the restriping and reconfiguration of the Arms lot, which if you recall is going to add about 60 spaces, will cost approximately \$30,000. The Wall Street Tower shuttle service...

Alderman O'Neil stated Brandy, we do not have this...I was just looking. All right. Hold on.

Ms. Stanley stated it should be on the PowerPoint presentation that was submitted, as well as there's a spreadsheet.

Alderman O'Neil stated I was looking for that specific slide that you had up first and I didn't see it.

Ms. Stanley stated it should be toward the end. If you look at the spreadsheet that was submitted, that also...

Alderman O'Neil stated I have it. Thank you.

Ms. Stanley stated the Wall Street Tower shuttle service will cost about \$50,000 for the balance of this year. It's based on four hours a day: two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening at a cost of \$68 per hour, and four days per week. That is consistent with the school schedule of the tenant at the 670 North Commercial, the Jefferson Mill address that we're proposing to use the shuttle service for. We also put in a contingency of about \$4,000 based on some changes that may come up as we go through the installation process. The total cost of the plan is \$505,000. Our revenues for this year, we're expecting...these are incremental revenues. In other words, over and above what we are currently getting and what we had budgeted. The Merner lot will probably generate about \$42,000 in this fiscal year. The Arms lot, because we're going to be allowing transient parkers to park in that parking lot, we estimate it to be about \$1,000 a month, for a total of \$11,000. Additional permits that we know we're going to be able to sell in the Blue Zone, which is the South Millyard, just north of Granite Street. That's going to be about \$20,000. Yellow Zone monthly parking, we know that we're going to be able to sell additional monthly parking passes there because we're increasing the number of spaces in that Zone. And that's going to be about \$40,000. The revenue for the shuttle service is about \$56,000, for total revenues this Fiscal Year of almost \$170,000. Annual revenues: about \$197,000; annual costs: \$122,000; and our annual surplus will be \$75,000. And that is not Fiscal Year '08; it's on an ongoing annual basis. What we're proposing in terms of financing this project, we're looking at a total cost of \$505,000. We have, approved in the budget, CIP funds of \$280,000, and the balance of the project cost, we're proposing a transfer from the Economic Development one-time fund in the amount of \$225,000. The return on the project investment is going to be...The payback period is about not quite four years. That's really all the information I have regarding the plan. What I also submitted with your package were the traffic Ordinances and all the necessary documentation that needs to be passed in order for us to get started on this project.

Chairman Osborne asked do we have a motion?

Alderman O'Neil asked questions first?

Chairman Osborne responded oh, questions, okay.

Alderman O'Neil asked Brandy, are you comfortable that...I know you've done extra outreach to the businesses in the Millyard. Are you comfortable that they know what's going on with this?

Ms. Stanley responded I would say that I'm very comfortable. I have had recent conversations with a number of the stakeholders in the Millyard, and to my knowledge, there are no stakeholders that are opposing the plan.

Alderman O'Neil stated and including...and I know you made an extra effort on my behalf to reach out to the people...I don't know the address...Bedford Street, I think...where Fratello's Restaurant is. That entire building, you reached out to them an extra time. You're comfortable, and that's the Merner lot. Correct?

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct. It's the attended Merner lot. I did reach out...

Alderman O'Neil stated and you're comfortable that they understand what we're attempting to do here?

Ms. Stanley responded I am comfortable that they understand what we're attempting to do. I do know that they are a little wary of the attended parking, which is a new concept for Manchester. None of them have indicated to me that they would oppose the plan, and I also made it clear that if it doesn't work, it's not something that we can't take away.

Alderman O'Neil stated that leads into my next question regarding the attended parking, as well as the shuttle. Are you hiring employees or are you contracting that out?

Ms. Stanley stated we are contracting the shuttle service out.

Alderman O'Neil asked and what is the duration of that contract?

Ms. Stanley stated the contract is a month-to-month contract.

Alderman O'Neil stated okay, so if...whether, I mean, I'm certainly one that's willing to give it a year because we need to get a good flow. But we can get out of it any time. And regarding the attended parking?

Ms. Stanley responded the attendant...that would be a City employee that we are asking to hire.

Alderman O'Neil stated obviously the investment and the Pay and Displays, once we do it, we do it. Theoretically you could take them out, but we're making a commitment once we do it.

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct, Alderman.

Alderman O'Neil stated I'm fine with that. I appreciate the extra work that Brandy and her staff have done. And I do greatly appreciate the extra outreach that she provided to the business community and I'm interested to hear from Alderman Long at some point because this is his Ward. But generally speaking, I like the plan as presented.

Alderman Long made a motion to approve the Millyard Parking Plan. It was duly seconded by Alderman Roy.

Alderman Shea asked could you explain a little bit about the shuttle. I'm not quite sure I exactly understand it. What is entailed with it and so forth?

Ms. Stanley responded the shuttle service is designed for a single tenant of the Jefferson Mill. The owner of that building has an agreement in the lease with that particular tenant that they have the ability to shuttle them off-site. I have had meetings with both the tenant and with the owner of that building, and everyone appears to be on board at this point. What's going to happen is the shuttle service is going to run from the Wall Street Tower to 670 North Commercial Street from, I believe, seven to nine in the morning, which is when all those people get to their destination, and then from, I believe it's two to four in the afternoon when everyone leaves.

Alderman Shea stated so in other words the shuttle will take people from one section of the Millyard, they'll park their car in one section, get on the shuttle and be transported to where they work. Is that what you're saying? Or where they're going?

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct, except they're actually going to be parking in the Wall Street Towers garage under the City's lease that the City has with that building.

Alderman Shea stated and so they'll be then shuttled back? I mean, now, during the time that the shuttle isn't working, they'll have to make their own plans to get back to cases of emergency or something like that?

Ms. Stanley stated that would be the case. It's not a substantial walk. It's probably less than a quarter of a mile.

Alderman Shea stated all right, the second point is communications. You have about close to \$16,000. What does that entail?

Ms. Stanley responded the communications are the wireless networking monthly costs for each one of the Pay and Displays. It's \$45 a month, and that covers the communications cost for downloading information as well as processing credit cards.

Alderman Shea stated and the other part has to do with the four days. What four days are you talking about?

Ms. Stanley responded generally, it's going to be Monday through Thursday. On weeks when there is a holiday, the holiday is off and it will be on Friday. So for the most part it's four days per week.

Alderman Shea stated four days Monday through Friday.

Ms. Stanley stated Monday through Thursday, and then Friday if there's a holiday.

Alderman Shea stated and the hours are again, what?

Ms. Stanley stated in the morning 7 to 9 and in the evening 2 to 4.

Alderman Roy stated Brandy, on your third or fourth or fifth page from the end, you get into the financial analysis for FY '08. You list the Merner lot at \$42,000 and then at the bottom you have total revenues of \$169,460. The next page you have annual revenues at \$197,520.

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct. The first page is Fiscal Year '08, because we're not starting on the dot on July 1st. You're not getting the same amount of revenue that you would for an annual basis. The second number is a full twelve-month cycle.

Alderman Roy stated and the attendant at the Merner lot is strictly to double park cars and take their keys and be able to shuffle?

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct.

Alderman Roy stated though I'll support the whole thing, I'm one that I won't give up my keys to a valet in a pouring rain storm. I don't think Manchester is quite there yet, even to get the 55 spaces. If my math is correct, 55 spaces at \$40 is \$2,200 per month permit fee, and I'm just afraid having a \$36,000 employee with health and benefits and growth and everything we'll end up on the losing end of that stick. So, although I'll support the motion in general, I would go on record as not supporting the additional employee. I think the 55 spaces won't end up being worth it. With that being said, I'll support the motion.

Alderman Long stated first of all, Brandy, I want to commend you on your due diligence with respect to this parking plan. And just so that everybody knows, this is a bandaid. It's an immediate fix that quasi-meets the immediate need. Over time, we're going to want to expand the Millyard or owners are going to want to be leasing, and that's going to bring more need for parking. So this right now suits everybody, feels it's worth giving it a try or agrees with the concept and I believe it will suit them immediately. The question I have though, Brandy: Why not the five days? We're only doing Monday through Thursday.

Ms. Stanley responded the shuttle service is actually not going to be a public shuttle service. It's just for one particular tenant at the Jefferson Mill, which happens to be a school. So, we're running the shuttle according to their school schedule.

Alderman Long stated okay, very good. And also, just a...if we could tell the PCO's with respect to, especially in the Fratello's area, to be sensitive to the business clientele, the restaurant patrons. You know, because some people are coming from out of the City, and especially when we start implementing it, people aren't going to be familiar with, how am I parking and to go and have dinner and come out with a ten, twenty, or thirty dollar ticket, doesn't do us any justice and in that area especially parking is extremely, extremely urgent and necessary. Thank you again, Brandy.

Alderman Lopez stated may I ask a question here, Mr. Chairman. Just real fast here. I just want to go back to Alderman Roy. About the parking attendant...This is the valet parking? How are you going to get those cars in there?

Ms. Stanley responded I'm sorry, without the attendant?

Alderman Lopez stated Alderman Roy, if I understood you, you're not in favor of the parking attendant. So without the parking attendant, how is the cars going to get in there? Fifty-five cars won't get in there because they have to move them around. Is that correct?

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct. I would not be able to get the additional 55 vehicles in there.

Alderman Lopez asked how does that, just for clarification, so when it comes to the full Board I don't have to go through it twice. So, without the Parking Attendant, what are we talking about with cars in there.

Ms. Stanley responded I believe the parking lot has about 150 parking spaces as is, and that capacity would not be increased at all if we don't put the attendant on there. If I may, Alderman Roy, I just wanted to clarify that it is not a valet parking service.

Alderman Roy stated I realize that.

Ms. Stanley stated the attendant is not going to be moving or parking anyone's vehicle unless someone they're blocking in needs to get out.

Alderman Lopez stated just a clarification then; is the Committee still looking at supporting without the attendant.

Alderman Roy stated the motion is the whole plan; I just wanted to go on record about that is one specific part. Other than that, I think the plan is fabulous.

Alderman O'Neil said just one quick question: Are the Ordinances part of what we're approving?

Ms. Johnson stated yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated and they'll have to go to B2R and all that?

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct. What we're requesting is that it be reported out to the Board this evening.

Alderman O'Neil asked were you looking, in order to implement them, to get them suspended and that would be your ideal request, correct?

Ms. Stanley responded yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated but they are part of one vote we're taking?

Chairman Osborne stated yes.

10. Communication from Stephanie Lewry, Intown Manchester Executive Director, submitting suggestions relating to street closures.

Since no one from Intown Manchester was present, on motion of Alderman Long, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to receive and file this communication.

11. Chairman Osborne advised that the Traffic Division has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

CROSSWALK (EMERGENCY ORDINANCE):

On Hayes Avenue, east of Massabesic Street
Alderman Osborne

STOP SIGNS:

On Amherst Street at Mammoth Road, NEC
Alderman Duval

NO PARKING ANYTIME:

On South Commercial Street, east side, from a point 88 feet north of Line Drive southerly to the dead end

On South Commercial Street, west side, from a point 100 feet north of Line Drive southerly to the dead end

Alderman Long

On Hanover Street, south side, from Ashland Street to Wilson Street
Alderman Duval

On Massabesic Street, south side, from Spruce Street to a point 50 feet south

Alderman Osborne

NO PARKING ANYTIME (EMERGENCY ORDINANCE):

On Spruce Street, both sides, from Canton Street to a point 90 feet west
Alderman Osborne

15-MINUTE PARKING (8 AM – 6 PM/Thursday to 9 PM, excluding Sundays and Holidays):

On Lake Avenue, north side, from a point 20 feet east of Manhattan Lane to a point 20 feet easterly

Alderman Long

TWO-HOUR PARKING (8 AM – 6 PM/Monday-Friday):

On Massabesic Street, south side, from a point 50 feet south of Spruce Street to Belmont Street

On Massabesic Street, south side, from Spruce Street to a point 30 feet east of Hall Street

Alderman Osborne

RESCIND TWO-HOUR PARKING (8 AM – 6 PM/Monday-Friday):

On Massabesic Street, south side, from Belmont Street to a point 30 feet east of Hall Street (ORD. 7225)

ADDENDUM

No Parking Anytime:

On Hanover Street, south side, from Tarrytown Road to a point 60 feet westerly

Alderman Osobrne

30 Minute Parking – 7 Days:

On Hanover Street, south side, from a point 65 feet west of Tarrytown Road to a point 60 feet westerly.

Alderman Osborne

Double Yellow Painted Lines:

On Eastern Avenue, from Old Wellington Road to Karatsas Avenue
Alderman Pinard

River Front Drive, from Amoskeag Street to River Front Drive Extension
Alderman Forest

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to approve the Traffic Division agenda, including the Addendums.

TABLED ITEMS

12. Communication from Alderman Shea proposing the establishment of a Manchester Crime Prevention Committee.
(Tabled 12/12/2006)
This item remained on the table.

13. E-mail communication from Jennifer Drakoulakos expressing her concerns regarding traffic flow and parking problem on A Street.
(Tabled 04/17/2007)
This item remained on the table.

Chairman Osborne stated I haven't got time for the new business. I'd like to just say this one thing; I've got three minutes. I was going to bring something up under new business this evening. It has to do with the PCO's. I know we just put some new PCO's on, but we're still lacking a PCO on the outskirts of the City, for which Kay does an excellent job out there. And I wanted to discuss this with this Committee here. I'm looking forward to looking to another PCO like Kay, that includes the vehicle. I'm going to make it short. That includes the vehicle, the individual and the...

Alderman O'Neil stated I agree with you. I think it's wonderful

Chairman Osborne stated I've been after this for twenty years. I mean, this is nothing new to me. And I think it's time.

Alderman O'Neil stated I just want to commend the Division, they not only are mobile in vehicles, they have an officer on bike now. So I think they're trying to do everything they can.

Chairman Osborne stated you're not getting my drift here.

Alderman O'Neil stated oh, I agree we need another Kay. I agree with you.

Chairman Osborne stated okay, I understand that, but we need another vehicle. Not that we're out there to make money on this, but Kay does an excellent job out there of booting, which is a very hard job, and I'm sure she takes a lot of grief in some instances out there, for which I know. And I'll get into other things later. I think we need somebody else out there because weekends there is no coverage at all, and there's a lot out there. We'd like to clean up the streets here a little bit. That's the main thrust here. But the PCO's themselves pay for themselves, they pay for the vehicle, and they still have extra money for the City. So it's not costing the taxpayers a dime out there to add on another PCO on the outskirts.

Alderman O'Neil stated I agree with you on that. Police Officers are still writing parking tickets, correct Deputy?

Chairman Osborne stated I'll put it on the agenda for next time. Can we put that on the agenda, Carol, so we can discuss it further? So be it. I wish I had the time to go through more, but I did what I could with the time I had.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Long , it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee